

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, October 17, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – W130 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Senate Chair
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker, House Chair
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Christine A. Johnson
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. R. Curt Webb
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent:

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Fred Hunsaker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Webb moved to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Waddoups, Rep. Allen, Rep. Cosgrove, Rep. Johnson, and Rep. King were absent for the vote.

2. Follow-up on Local Government Campaign Financial Reports

Rep. Daw reviewed 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Election Law-Financial Reporting." The bill requires the Office of the Lt. Governor to post on the office's website each campaign financial disclosure statement that is forwarded to the office by a municipality or a county.

Mr. Michael Cragun, Office of the Lt. Governor, reviewed a cost analysis for operating and maintaining the financial reporting. He stated it will require \$3,000 in one-time funding to set up an application to handle the reports and \$30,000 per year in ongoing funding to maintain the website.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Utah League of Cities and Towns, emphasized the League's support for the legislation.

MOTION: Rep. Wimmer moved to adopt 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Election Law - Financial Report," as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Waddoups was absent for the vote.

3. Process for Incorporation of a Town

Sen. Stowell emphasized the complicated process for incorporation of a town and a city and reviewed the packet of charts and information distributed to the Committee. He proposed that the processes be combined and that the petitioner choose either the election process or the county commission process. He explained the ramifications for both choices.

Mr. Shurtz expressed some concerns. He committed to working with Sen. Stowell to find solutions to those concerns to make sure there is a vested interest for both public and private entities.

Committee members expressed some concerns, as well as support, for the concept.

Sen. Stowell referred to the fundamental policy questions that had been distributed. He committed to addressing the committee members' concerns and working to have draft legislation prepared for the November interim meeting.

4. Public Water Protection

Rep. Sylvia Anderson introduced and explained 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Safe Drinking Water Revisions," that was distributed to the Committee. She reviewed several revisions made since the last discussion. She stated that the bill encourages cities, towns, and unincorporated areas to enact an ordinance to protect drinking water sources within their jurisdiction. The bill includes a list of restrictions that cities, towns, and unincorporated areas are encouraged to include in a local ordinance. She stated that each entity's ordinance should be drafted to meet the needs and unique properties of the specific region.

Mr. Paul Ashton, President of the White City Water Improvement District, answered questions from the Committee regarding city ordinances as they pertain to their water systems. He emphasized that no unincorporated area in the state has an ordinance to protect their drinking water system.

Committee discussion followed.

Mr. Shurtz expressed concerns raised with the legislation. He spoke in favor of working out those issues.

Ms. Emily Brown, Associate General Counsel and drafter of the bill, clarified certain issues about the bill.

Mr. Todd Bingham, Utah Farm Bureau, clarified certain issues about the bill and raised other questions that he believes need to be addressed.

Mr. Fred Finlinson, Utah Water Coalition, stated that this is driven by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. He explained the current jurisdiction rights and responsibilities. He spoke in favor of the legislation.

MOTION: Rep. Cosgrove moved to adopt 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Safe Drinking Water Revisions," as a committee bill, with the condition that the concerns expressed will be addressed and resolved.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Wimmer made a motion to move to the next agenda item and bring this item back to the Committee on November's meeting agenda to hear discussion regarding the resolution of concerns that have been raised. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Seelig was absent for the vote.

5. Local Referenda Issues

Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst, reviewed the Local Referenda Issues previously distributed in the packet to the Committee. The Committee discussed the five listed problems with current local referenda statutes.

The Committee discussed the benefit of separating some of the issues into separate pieces of legislation.

Mr. Shurtz spoke in favor of having these issues addressed.

6. Update on Special Districts Subcommittee

Mr. Robert Rees reported on efforts of the Special Districts Subcommittee during this interim. He explained 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Special Service District Revisions." He stated that he would be finalizing the draft and presenting it to the Political Subdivisions Committee in November.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Fife moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Gibson and Rep. Seelig were absent for the vote.

Chair Hunsaker adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.